

FEBRUARY 2, 1976

THE U.S.S.R. AND ANGOLA

AMHCR: THE SOVIET PRESS WAS UNUSUALLY ACTIVE THIS PAST WEEKEND IN ITS DEFENSE OF MOSCOW'S POLICY IN ANGOLA. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THIS SOVIET CONCERN:

VOICE:

SOVIET PRESS STATEMENTS ON ANGOLA DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS MAKE INTERESTING READING. FOR ONE THING, THEY HAVE INDICATED AT LEAST A MEASURE OF SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF A SETTLEMENT IN ANGOLA BY THE WARRING FACTIONS---WHICH COULD BE LOGICALLY INTERPRETED AS MEANING AN INDIGENOUS SETTLEMENT WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. AND FOR ANOTHER, THEY HAVE STRONGLY PROTESTED ACCUSATIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION ITSELF IS GUILTY OF SUCH INTERFERENCE.

THE REFERENCE TO AN ANGOLAN SETTLEMENT BY WHAT WERE DESCRIBED AS "PATRIOTIC FORCES" THERE FIRST APPEARED IN IZVESTIA LAST THURSDAY AND WAS REPEATED IN PRAYDA SUNDAY. THE FORMULA SUGGESTED CALLS FOR "A CONSOLIDATION OF ALL PATRIOTIC FORCES WHICH FAVOR THE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE AND FREE DEVELOPMENT" OF ANGOLA. EXACTLY WHAT THIS MEANS IS NOT SPELLED OUT. BUT THE POPULAR MOVEMENT IS REFERRED TO AS THE "LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT" OF ANGOLA, AND THIS HAS LED SOME OBSERVERS TO CONCLUDE THAT WHAT MOSCOW IS HINTING AT IS NOT SO MUCH A TRUE COALITION AS AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE OTHER FACTIONS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A GOVERNMENT DOMINATED BY THE F.P.L.A. (OPT.) WHETHER MOSCOW HAS SOMETHING FURTHER IN MIND---WHETHER IT WOULD ENTERTAIN THE KIND OF STRICTLY AFRICAN AND STRICTLY ANGOLAN SETTLEMENT REPEATEDLY SUGGESTED BY THE UNITED STATES---IS NOT CLEAR. (END OPT.)

THE PARALLEL THEME IN THE SOVIET PRESS---THAT IS, DEFENSE OF SOVIET ACTIONS IN ANGOLA--- IS INTERESTING BECAUSE IT WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT CRITICISMS OF THAT POLICY BY HIGH AMERICAN

OFFICIALS HAVE TOUCHED A RAW NERVE. IN FACT, THE SOVIET PRESS DEPARTED FROM ITS USUAL CUSTOM IN ATTACKING BOTH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER BY NAME. THEY WERE ACCUSED OF GIVING A "DISTORTED PICTURE" OF SOVIET POLICY, OF BEING ILLOGICAL AND UNTRUTHFUL. HOWEVER, NEITHER TASS NOR PRAVDA---BOTH OF WHOM CARRIED ATTACKS ON THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS--- WERE ABLE TO OFFER MUCH IN THE WAY OF REBUTTAL OF THE INDICTMENT OF SOVIET ACTIONS PRESENTED LAST WEEK BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. (OPT.) MR. KISSINGER HAD SAID FLATLY THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE GUILTY OF "MASSIVE AND UNPRECEDENTED INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFRICA" ---WITH NEARLY TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS OF ARMS, WITH MILITARY TECHNICIANS AND ADVISORS, WITH ELEVEN THOUSAND CUBAN COMBAT TROOPS, AND WITH SUBSTANTIAL SEA AND AIRLIFT AND NAVAL COVER IN ADJACENT WATERS." (END OPT)

THE SOVIET PRESS ALSO DENIED ACCUSATIONS THAT MOSCOW HAS EXPANSIONIST AIMS IN AFRICA.

THE HEAT WITH WHICH THE SOVIET OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS HAVE REACTED TO CRITICISMS OF MOSCOW'S ACTIONS IN ANGOLA IS BOUND TO STIMULATE SPECULATION ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THIS SUDDEN SENSITIVENESS. THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT MOSCOW IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE GROWING UNEASINESS AMONG BLACK AFRICANS ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA--- AND ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CONTINENT. (OPT.) THE DECISION OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS NOT TO EXTEND AID TO THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FAC-TIONS IN ANGOLA---AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES--- ARE ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE RAISED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT PURPORTED JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SOVIET ROLE. THERE'S EVEN SPECULATION THAT

THE SOVIET PRESS STATEMENTS MAY IN SOME WAY BE CONNECTED TO THE PARTY CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MONTH. (END OPT.) WHAT-
EVER THE REASON, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MOSCOW HAS FELT OBLIGED TO UNDER-
TAKE AN EXPLANATION OF ITS ANGOLA POLICY WHICH IS AT ONCE ANGRY
AND DEFENSIVE---BUT WHICH REMAINS, NEVERTHELESS, UNCONVINCING.
END